Data Checklist: Comparing your data to the fields in WQX

This checklist is designed to help you think about how the data you've collected looks in WQX. If you can answer "Y" to all of the questions, you have all of the elements needed for WQX compatibility. Each circled "N" indicates a data field which will need to be investigated before your data can be completely WQX compatible.

Comparing your project information to WQX

Project Name	Do I know the name of the project I'm collecting data for?	Y	N
Project Identifier	Is there an existing 'code' to identify this project that I can use? If not, can I create a code under 35 characters with no spaces or special characters that will be unique to this project?	Y	N
* the Project Identifier is the way WQX links your project, monitoring locations and results. Even if someone else has the exact same project name, your data is only linked to your project (and not theirs)			
Project Description Text	Can I put together a short sentence or two about what the project is designed to study?	Y	N

Comparing your Monitoring Locations information to WQX

Monitoring Location Name	Do I know the names of the stations or locations that I monitor at?	Y	N
Monitoring Location Identifier	Is there an existing 'code' to identify my monitoring locations? If not, can I create a code under 35 characters with no spaces or special characters that will be unique to each monitoring location?	Y	N
* the Monitoring Location Identifier is the way WQX links your monitoring locations to your results, even if someone else has the exact same monitoring location name			
Monitoring Location Type Name	Do I know if the samples being collected from a river/stream (includes creeks), an estuary, a storm sewer, etc? *see the allowed values in the data template for more options	Y	N
Latitude Measure	Do I know the latitudes of the monitoring locations?	Y	N
Longitude Measure	Do I know the longitudes of the monitoring locations?	Y	N
Horizontal Collection Method Name	Do I know what method was used to determine the lat/long of the monitoring locations (e.g., a type of GPS, a map interpolation, etc.)? *see the allowed values in the data template for more options	Y	N
Source Map Scale Numeric	If a map was used to determine lat/long, do I know the scale of the map (e.g., if it a 1:1000 map then the value would be 1000)?	Y	N
Horizontal Coordinate Reference System Datum Name	Do I know the datum used to determine the lat/long (e.g., North American Datum 1983 [NAD 83], World Geodetic System 1984 [WQS84], etc.)?	Y	N
State Code	Do I know the state the monitoring is performed in?	Y	N

Information about Activities and Results

Activity Type Code	Do I know if the characteristics being monitored were measured in the field or if samples were collected to determine the results? *see the allowed values in the data template for more options	Y	N
Activity Identifier	For lab results, do I have a lab sample ID that I could use as an Activity ID for a group of sample results? For field measurements, how can I string together a code to identify the activity of collecting field measurement results (or a group of field measurement results if taken together)? If not, can I create a code under 35 characters with no spaces or special characters that will be unique to each sample or field measurement I have collected?	Y	N

* the Activity Identifier is the way WQX links your results to their project and monitoring location, even if someone else has monitored the same monitoring location for the same characteristics. An Activity can be defined as any individual action you are performing at a location to collect data. For example, if you were to visit a location, and do the following:
- collect 1 bottle of water to be sent to a lab for nutrient analysis
- collect 1 bottle of water to be sent to a lab for pathogen analysis
- collect a series of field parameters (i.e. pH, DO, Temperature)
- create a field blank to be used as QC for the nutrient analysis

Under the STORET model, each of these would be considered a separate activity, and would need their own unique Activity ID.

Activity Media Name	Do I know if the samples or field measurements were collected in water, sediment, air or another media type? *see the allowed values in the data template for more options	Y	N
Activity Start Date	Do I know the date the samples or field measurements were collected?	Y	N
Sample Collection Method Identifier	If a sample was taken (as opposed to a measurement recorded in the field), do I know the method used to collect it (e.g., did it follow the QAPP developed for the project)?	Y	N

* If you would like to record the method used to take a field measurement (e.g., the QAPP), that information can be added here, but is not required

Sample Collection Equipment Name	If a sample was taken (as opposed to a measurement recorded in the field), do I know the method used to collect it (e.g., did it follow the QAPP developed for the project)?	Y	N

* If you would like to record the equipment used to take a field measurement (e.g., Probe/Sensor), that information can be added here, but is not required

Characteristic Name	Do I know the name of the characteristics monitored?	Y	N
Result Detection Condition Text	Do I know whether a result was detected, not reported, present and above quantification limits, etc?	Y	N
Result Measure Value	Do I know the numerical result of the monitored characteristic if it was detected?	Y	N
Result Measure Unit Code	Do I know the units of the monitored characteristic if it was detected?	Y	N

Result Sample Fraction Text	For samples, do I know if the sample was analyzed in total or if only a fraction of the sample was analyzed (e.g. only mercury suspended in the sample was analyzed by the lab)	Y	N
Result Status Identifier	Do I know if the result can be considered final? *If the data has been QC'd and is considered final, it is ready to enter the warehouse. Users can also flag other statuses, such as Preliminary, Accepted, etc.	Y	N
Result Statistical Base Code	Do I know if the reported result measure value here is the average (or minimum, maximum, etc.) of several values of the monitored characteristic?	Y	N
* The statistical base code is optional but is useful if the data you'd like to enter is derived from more than one result.			
Result Value Type Name	Do I know if the result is the actual value measured or was the result determined through estimates, calculations or adjustments for controls?	Y	N
Result Analytical Method Identifier	Do I know the method used to analyze the results? *Only required for samples. See the allowed values in the data template for options	Y	N
Result Analytical Method Identifier Context	Do I know who developed the method used to analyze the results? *see the allowed values in the data template for options	Y	N
Detection Quantitation Limit Type Name	If a numeric result measure value could not be provided because of detection limitations in the analytical method, do I know the type of detection limitation (e.g., method detection limit, upper quantitation limit, etc.) *see the allowed values in the data template for more options	Y	N
Detection Quantitation Limit Measure Value	If a numeric result measure value could not be provided because of detection limitations in the analytical method, do I know the measure value of detection limitation?	Y	N
Detection Quantitation Limit Measure Unit Code	If a numeric result measure value could not be provided because of detection limitations in the analytical method, do I know the units of detection limitation?	Y	N